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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/039,837

10/18/2001

Robert J. Greenberg

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EXAMINER

OROPEZA, FRANCES P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3766

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/20/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/039,837	Applicant(s) GREENBERG ET AL.	
	Examiner FRANCES P. OROPEZA	Art Unit 3766	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 1/28/08 (Amendment).
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 269-302 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 269-302 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Notice of Allowance Withdrawn

1. The Notice of Allowance was withdrawn in the communication of 3/11/08 because prior art reading on the instant invention was identified.

Response

2. The Applicant added new claims 301 and 302 in the response file 1/28/08, hence the rejection of record is withdrawn and a new rejection established in the subsequent paragraphs.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 269-277, 301 and 302 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Borkan (U.S. Patent No. 4,793,353). Borkan substantially teaches the instant invention, the electronic tissue stimulator system comprising an external communication unit with means for altering parameters for stimulation of visual neurons based on operational data, an internal communication unit, and a plurality of electrodes (abstract; figures 1, 20, 28; column 2, lines 38-42; column 2, line 58 – column 3, line 12; column 5, lines 13-16, 31; column 5, line 36 – column 6, line 30; column 21, lines 14-23, 28-42; column 24, lines 30-35; column 25, lines 1-8; column 26, lines 60-66).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. Claims 278-300 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Borkan (U.S. Patent No. 4,793,353) in view of Chow et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,895,415).

As discussed in paragraph 4 of this action, Borkan discloses the claimed invention except for the electrodes stimulating the retina (claims 278-286), and the system comprising a video receiver and video processing unit (claims 287-300).

As to stimulating the retina, Chow et al. teach a visual stimulation system using multiple electrodes (8) for the purpose of stimulating the retina. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have used retinal stimulation in the Borkan system in order to utilize a proven means to stimulate and modulate the ocular system so a person suffering from blindness due to outer retinal layer damage may benefit from developed artificial vision (abstract; figures 24 A-D; column 18, lines 62 – column 19, lines 19).

As to a video receiver and video processing unit, Chow et al. teach a visual stimulation system using a video receiver (92) and video processing unit (96) for the purpose of realizing a visual image and utilizing that image to stimulate the retina. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have used a video receiver and video processing unit for retinal stimulation in the Borkan system in order to utilize a proven means to perceive, stimulate and modulate the ocular system so a person suffering from blindness due to outer retinal layer damage may benefit from developed artificial vision to know what is visually perceivable in his world (abstract; figures 24 A-D; column 17, line 55 – column 18, line 12; column 18, lines 62 – column 19, lines 19).

Statutory Basis

6. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fran Oropeza whose telephone number is (571) 272-4953. Fran's schedule typically is Monday and Tuesday 9AM-7PM EST. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl H. Layno can be reached on (571) 272-4949. Carl's schedule typically is Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9AM–5 PM EST; Tuesday, Thursday 9AM–3PM and 9PM–11PM EST. The fax phone numbers for

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the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300 for regular communication and for After Final communications.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Frances P. Oropeza/

Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3766

/Carl H. Layno/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3766